



August 5, 2002

To the Members of the Indianapolis City-County Council:

I am pleased to present to you the 2003 Budget for the City of Indianapolis. This budget reflects my commitment to improving public safety, strengthening neighborhoods and providing fiscally responsible leadership to the citizens of Indianapolis.

The 2003 Budget includes funding for 42 new officers for the Indianapolis Police Department, supporting my efforts to put more community police in our neighborhoods to fight and prevent the spread of crime.

Other highlights of the 2003 budget include continued funding for our aggressive code enforcement efforts, as well as additional funding for a new code enforcement inspector, which will enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods. This budget also includes my administration's third consecutive increase in funding for the arts.

This budget totals \$546.7 million, a 3.2 percent increase over the 2002 budget. The property tax rate will remain at \$1.2285 per \$100 of assessed value.

Contracts for bargaining unit employees expire December 31, 2002 and new contracts are currently in negotiation. The budget allows for 2% average salary increases for biweekly employees and takes into account a projected increase in health and life insurance costs, also under negotiation.

My proposed budget is not only the articulation of my administration's goals, it also lays the groundwork for a strong financial future. Finally, the 2003 Budget addresses our city's needs for a safe community and effective city services while containing the growth of government. I look forward to productive discussions with the council.

Sincerely,

Bart Peterson